

Message Text

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43

ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 INT-05 TRSE-00 OES-03 FEAE-00

EB-07 RSC-01 /026 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA BAHRAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1828

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI UAE

AMEMBASSY DOHA QATAR

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT KUWAIT

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS : BEXP, SA, BA

SUBJECT : DESALINATION FACT-FINDING MISSION

REF : STATE 015747

1. ALL CONTRACTS HAVE BEEN LET FOR BAHRAIN'S FIRST MAJOR DESALINATION PROJECT, A COMBINED POWER-DESALINATION PLANT WITH CAPACITY OF 5 MILLION GALLONS/DAY. MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OFFICIALS AND FAO ADVISOR TO MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE ESTIMATE THAT BAHRAIN WILL EVENTUALLY NEED 10-15 MILLION GALLON/DAY ADDITIONAL CAPACITY; HOWEVER, IT WILL BE SEVERAL YEARS BEFORE EVEN STUDIES ARE MADE FOR NEW PROJECTS. BAHRAIN WILL PROBABLY LOOK TOWARD FLASH PROCESS.

2. PROCEDURE IN PAST HAS BEEN FOR GOVT. TO TENDER PROJECTS PIECEMEAL, WITH EACH SECTION GOING TO LOWEST BIDDER. FOR EXAMPLE, PRESENT PROJECT INVOLVES TWO CONSULTANTS AND EIGHT CONTRACTING FIRMS COMPRISING SEVEN NATIONALITIES.

3. WE FEEL THAT U.S. FIRMS (AND BAHRAIN) WOULD DERIVE SOME BENEFIT FROM PROPOSED MISSION. HOWEVER, ANY NEW MAJOR PROJECTS WILL BE SO FAR IN FUTURE THAT GOB WILL HAVE LITTLE INFORMATION TO PROVIDE MISSION. IN ADDITION, BAHRAIN

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WILL BE WATCHING PROJECTS IN OTHER GULF STATES CLOSELY,

AND WILL HAVE THE FULL BENEFIT OF ITS NEIGHBORS
EXPERIENCE BEFORE STUDYING NEW PROJECTS. WE THEREFORE FEEL
THAT MISSION COULD BETTER CONCENTRATE ON COUNTRIES WITH
MORE IMMEDIATE, AND MORE SIGNIFICANT, NEEDS.

4. GOVT AND PRIVATE SECTOR WILL PROBABLY HAVE SOME SMALL
REQUIREMENTS SIMILAR TO 100,000 GALLON/DAY PROJECT FOR
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (REPORTED BY TRADE OPPORTUNITY
MESSAGE). REACTION TO THIS T.O. BY U.S. FIRMS (INCLUDING
ENVIROGENICS DIVISION OF CHEMICO) HAS BEEN GOOD AND WE
WILL COVER SIMILAR PROJECTS IN SAME MANNER.
TWINAM

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